Number 23

BAR HILL NEWSLETTER

1st August 1970

The monthly bulletin of the
Bar Hill Residents Association,
distributed to all residents

New Residents

We welcome this month:

Mr. and Mrs. Ellis, 35 Oatlands Avenue
Mr. and Mrs. Griffiths, 8 Otter Close
Mr. and Mrs. Welch, 9 Otter Close.

Newcomers
Bar Hill Church Centre

The "Newcomers" was formed to help to get to know other women in the village. You are always welcome at our meetings, and if you would like to know more about us, please contact: Mrs. Heather Fudge, 22 Acorn Avenue (Crafts Hill 315) or Mrs. Margaret Neill, 1 Oatlands Avenue (Crafts Hill 205).

The Newcomers have planned to sell soft toys etc. (for Christmas) at Cambridge Market and in the village. The first working evening for this is at: Mrs. Jean Prandy, 15 Acorn Avenue on Friday, September 18th at 8.0 p.m. Attractive material is still needed. Please deliver to Mrs. J. Prandy or Mrs. V. Gostelow, 24 Acorn Ave.

BaHDS

The future productions will include a comedy, "Miranda" about a "mermaid out of water", and a Revue at Christmas.

The group would like to invite any interested members, not necessarily acting, who would care to join. The meetings have a social air about them and all the members have a good time. The group is meeting informally on Wednesdays during the holidays in members' houses, and on Tuesdays during term-time in the School hall. For further information, please contact Mrs. Sheila Willows, 24 Almond Grove (Crafts Hill 362).

Library

The Library will re-open on Friday, 14th August (3.45 - 4.45 p.m.) in the School.

Women's Institute

You are invited to a coffee morning at 21 Gladeside on Tuesday, 25th August (10.30 - 12). There will be a cake stall and raffle.

Thanks

Mr. and Mrs. K. Mann and family of 20 Gladeside would like to thank very sincerely their kind neighbours and all those concerned with the mopping-up operations, and the careful removal of furniture from their house on Monday, 6th July 1970, when a burst water main flooded six houses in Gladeside.

We thank you all once again, Mary and Keith Mann.

Playgroup

Term commences on Monday, 14th September.

The Playgroup will be having their annual Jumble Sale in Cambridge Market on Thursday, 17th September. Please keep any of your jumble, and it will be collected during the early part of that week. Any volunteers to help man the stall should please contact Mrs. Lakin, 22 Almond Grove (Crafts Hill 222).

Clerk to Parish Council

The Parish Council has a vacancy for a clerk and applications are invited from Bar Hill residents having clerical and administrative experience. This is an interesting job and duties include the preparation of agendas, taking the minutes at council meetings (normally held in the evenings on the fourth Wednesday of each month), keeping accounts and dealing with some routine correspondence.

The salary is £25 per annum.

Application sould be made in writing to the Clerk to the Parish Council, 12 Gladeside, Bar Hill, not later than Friday, September 4th.

Bar Hill Parent Teacher Association

Following an inaugural meeting in June, at which it had been agreed that an Association should be formed, the Bar Hill Parent Teacher Association was formally constituted at its first Annual General Meeting held at the School on Thursday, 16th July. After the meeting parents, friends and school staff enjoyed a cider and cheese party, admirably arranged by the catering sub-committee led by Mrs. Lancaster.

Membership of the association is open to all persons and bodies, including businesses, who are interested in the school. The objects of the Association are to encourage co-operation between the staff of the school and all people - parents and others - interested in the school, for the benefit of the school and the children attending it.

The Association's programme will include educational and social meetings and work for the school. Already a party of parents and friends are working on cleaning up and renovating the school sheds - ALL VOLUNTEERS WELCOME! - please contact the secretary.

The programme for next term will include: a talk on Teaching Reading - of particular interest to parents whose children are just starting school; a talk on Decimal Currency - to help parents catch up with their children in preparing for D-Day; assistance with the organisation of the School Christmas Party.

The Association gives everybody in Bar Hill an opportunity to support our Village School; the subscription is a modest 5/- per year per family, and should be paid to the Treasurer, Mr. D. Miller, at 14 Acorn Avenue.

Officers:	President	Mr. W. H. S. Norton
	Vice-Presidents	Mrs. Leakey, The Hon. Mrs. Pease
	Chairman	Mr. W. Willows
	Secretary	Mrs. J. Dale
	Treasurer	Mr. D. Miller.

"Folk Night"

The Folk Night held in the School on 18th July was unquestionably a success - financially only just, but a total success in every other way. The Crofters, with their excellent M.C., worked with tireless energy and skill to provide a very varied and well-balanced programme of songs and dances - and we responded, tirelessly, at any rate . . . It was a happy choice of entertainment: dances of greater or lesser complexity, which everyone could and did join in (and if one inadvertently changed partners, or sets, or even sex, it only increased the hilarity); songs, too, that everyone knew or quickly picked up, interspersed with some unusual and talented solos.

It was a pleasant social evening for Villagers, and at the same time very agreeable to welcome so many people from outside. The Residents Association hope to hold another similar evening near Christmas, and meanwhile thank very warmly everyone who helped us this time: Mr. Norton, the School Managers and Mr. Oliver for the use of the School Hall; all the people who sold tickets, made and displayed posters, prepared and sold refreshments, arranged the hall and cleared up afterwards - and all those who just came and enjoyed themselves. We hope you'll come again.

A.M.O'W.

BHRA

Tea-pots

The Residents Association have purchased several large tea-pots which are available to any organisation in the village which would like to use them in providing refreshments at meetings.

Burst Water Main

As most residents will be aware, several houses in Gladeside were recently flooded when a water main burst. The Residents Association is contacting the local water company to ascertain the cause of the burst, and to seek reassurance that the problem is unlikely to recur.

BHRA: Future meeting

The Residents Association is seeking a speaker from the Local Authority Planning Department concerned with the development of Bar Hill, to present the Department's views to a general meeting of the Village.

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Letters to the Editor

We are printing below some letters received in response to a correspondent in the July Newsletter, together with a reply from F.R.A., who sparked off the correspondence.

We repeat that any individual or organisation in the Village is very welcome to submit items of interest to the Village for publication in this Newsletter. The views of the Residents Association Committee will be clearly indicated as such. Other articles are signed with a name or initials (unless their origin is obvious), and these are news from or views of the individual concerned; they do not represent the opinion of the Residents Association Committee, or of the Editor.

Dear F.R.A.,

I objected strongly to your reference to the petition recently sent to Mr. F. Pym, M.C., M.P., as stated in last month's Newsletter. I suggest that, disregarding gossip, you obtain a few facts before villifying others' efforts to establish a smoothly-running tenor of life in this village.

You suggest that the petition was ill-formed. Did you read the letter attached to it? I suggest not. You state that it was ill-advised. That is a matter of opinion, not fact. You say it was poorly subscribed to, yet it received 100% support from those asked to sign.

I have lived in this village since it was a place of eternal mud, when shopping was done by phone, and houses had the unintentional luxury of indoor swimming pools. That was nearly three years ago. Most of these problems have been rectified, yet, at the time the petition was sent, we were still awaiting an efficient aerial system. Even you, who seem determined to defend any inefficiency that is detrimental to Bar Hill must concede that three years is an unreasonable length of time to wait for improvement. Your charming list of accidents to the aerial were really a little far-fetched; accidents do not occur with such fatal regularity. Other developing areas can maintain perfectly functioning aerials - despite contractors.

I come from no vociferous minority (that word is generally used in reference to rats, I believe). Throughout the teething problems of this village I have taken great interest in the birth of a new concept of village life and planning. It can function, but tardy workmanship and obstinate silence on the part of those responsible will sour the residents' outlook. Why not admit that the residents' complaint concerning the aerial is perfectly valid; the "silent majority" (with vested interest no doubt) has achieved little, yet a few voices raised elicits a few answers, and some attempt to rectify matters.

(Mrs.) A. Melia

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The Editor

Sir,

I was very distressed by the ill-mannered article under the signature F.R.A. in your July letter.

Everyone would like to be properly informed of the progress and other developments in the life of the village, and the people best able to do this are the developers.

/contd.

F.R.A.'s information appears inaccurate, as I understand that the Residents' Association have a report on the television system showing it to be badly designed. The faults with the system have been a very great annoyance and although I am not in agreement with the way the petition to Mr. Pym was handled the frustration which prompted it is very understandable.

I think everyone who lives in the village is anxious to make it an exciting and enjoyable place, and would welcome any reliable information about their village. This would certainly do away with rumour.

Yours etc., J. Pook

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The Editor

Dear Sir,

I must protest at the article published in the July Newsletter by the writer hiding under the initials F.R.A. However misguided the petition to our member of parliament may have been the very fact that it was presented the day before work commenced on repairing and renewing the communal aerial system shows a serious loss of goodwill and breakdown of communication. Problems which naive, school masterly articles such as this can only aggravate. Further, to suggest that the recurrent troubles were not caused by inefficient weatherproofing is an insult to anyone's intelligence which can only cause further animosity. No doubt the complete failures of the last few weeks were caused by physical damage but twelve months' experience has shown that signal strength dropped significantly after any rainfall resulting in extremely poor sound and picture quality.

I can only hope that this article does not represent official residents association policy and hope to see a disclaimer in next month's newsletter.

One further point surely F.R.A. and one hopes the association, realise that while we must maintain the best possible relationship with the developers, indeed it is in our mutual interest that the village be successfully completed as soon as possible, our interests will not always coincide and indeed in some cases may be in direct opposition.

Yours faithfully,

******** Peter Headland

After having subscribed to Newsletter on a number of occasions, I am delighted to have received some reaction from the Villagers. The Residents Association has done sterling work, and continues to do so, and it is essential for everyone to support it. Earlier articles in Newsletter give reasons.

I wrote as I did about the petition because I do know facts - 100% asked to sign it, did so? I know - and I know the circulation was limited to about 20 of the 170 or so families in the Village. My reaction was to a newspaper report - was anything else published? or circulated to the Villagers - or the public at large? I think not.

I know about the Association's technical report, I know it was endorsed by the TV contractors, and I know they, and the developers do not intend to repeat mistakes made by the original developers, and they are determined to put right the present system.

My criticisms of the developers, contractors and local authorities are, and have been informed. Some have been published in the Newsletter, many are recorded in the proceedings of the Association, and all have been put personally to the individuals concerned. My point has always been, is, and - I am unrepentant on this - will always be keeping Bar Hill free of unnecessary adverse publicity.

I have every sympathy with you all - after all, I do suffer the same inconveniences, and the same frustrations - but I do appreciate the extent to which this private development is absorbing private funds: more money has been spent on Bar Hill than has been recovered by sales, and more has yet to be spent on the flyover, and amenities (including the TV system).

It is a tedious, demanding business dispelling the unjustifiable poor image Bar Hill was given in the early days, but we are achieving a lot: a lot of criticism was unfounded, and arose from misunderstandings, jealousies, and in some areas, fear. I may write about reasons and cures for our image, one day.

Thank you for the letters to the Editor - I am sure he would welcome contributions - and I am sure the Residents Association would welcome 100% paid-up membership.

F.R.A.

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